

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 503 – Definition of a Veteran (LSB 1229HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 503 expands the statutory definition of “veteran” to include certain injured military personnel and also military personnel with service dates outside the current timeframes provided in Iowa law. The expanded definition will make additional Iowa residents eligible for veteran’s benefits and veteran’s preferences. The Bill does not change eligibility for the military service property tax exemption.

Assumptions

1. The Department of Veteran’s Affairs estimates a maximum of 59,500 former military personnel could benefit from the expanded definition.
2. For FY 2007, statewide county veteran services expenditures totaled \$2,763,000 and an estimated 209,000 veterans were served, for an average cost per served veteran of \$13.22.
3. Expanding the definition of veteran will increase the number of Iowans eligible to receive veteran’s assistance benefits through county government.

Fiscal Impact

County government veteran expenditures will increase by as much as \$787,000 per year. However, the Iowa State Association of Counties reports that many counties currently provide services to all honorably discharged veterans, not just those specified currently in statute. To the extent this is the case, the actual impact could be substantially lower.

The Bill may contain an unfunded State mandate as defined in Section 25B.2, Code of Iowa. The Bill provides that Section 25B.2 does not apply to this Bill.

Sources

Department of Veteran’s Affairs
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Department of Revenue

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 12, 2009

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to **Joint Rule 17** and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to **Section 2.56, Code of Iowa**. Data used in developing this fiscal note, including correctional and minority impact information, is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
